

Message Text

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70

ACTION SS-30

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R 191752Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 538

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2341

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EC, BE

SUBJECT: GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. BRUSSELS 2060; B. MALMGREN/HEIMANN TELECON

APRIL 11; C. GRANT/LANDE TELECON APRIL 18

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON SENIOR OFFICIAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY
ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE GENERAL (STUYCK) ON APRIL 16 TO
CONFIRM GOB WILLINGNESS TO GO TO 15 PERCENT ON DUMPERS
IF AMERICAN STANDARD GUARANTEED THE EMPLOYMENT LEVEL AT
ITS WABCO SUBSIDIARY AND TO CLARIFY WHAT FORM OF COMMITMENT
GOB WOULD REQUIRE. STUYCK INFORMED US THAT WHAT THEY
EARLIER HAD IN MIND WAS A MULTI-YEAR GUARANTEE OF
EMPLOYMENT AT CURRENT LEVELS THOUGH THE FORM WAS NOT
IMPORTANT.

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2. WITH REGARD TO THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GO TO 15 PERCENT,

HOWEVER, HE STATED THAT A NEW ELEMENT HAD ENTERED THE SITUATION IN THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED RECENTLY THAT A SECOND COMPANY, LA BRUGEOISE ET NIVELLES AT ST. MICHEL-LES BRUGES, WAS CONCERNED WITH THIS TARIFF POSITION AND IN LIGHT OF THIS IT WOULD NOW BE DIFFCULT FOR THE BELGIANS TO GO BELOW 20 PERCENT ON DUMPERS ABOVE 10,000 CUBIC CENTIMETERS. HE SAID THAT ON DUMPERS BELOW 10,000 CUBIC CENTIMETERS THEY ARE WILLING TO GO TO 15 PERCENT. THIS INFORMATION IS AT VARIANCE WITH THAT REPORTED IN REF A AT WHICH TIME STUYCK TOLD US THAT GOB WAS WILLING TO GO TO 17 PERCENT ON OVER 10,000 CC DUMPERS AND POSSIBLY TO 15 PERCENT PROVIDED IT HAD THE PROPER GUARANTEES FROM AMERICAN STANDARD. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE NEW ELEMENT WAS THE ENTRY OF A SECOND BELGIAN FIRM INTO THE PICTURE.

3. EMBOFF NOTED THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NINE ARE NOW MOVING FORWARD WITH US TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION TO THE ARTICLE XXIV:6 PROBLEM AND THAT BELGIAN MIGHT BE IN A POSITION OF BEARING THE ONUS OF CAUSING BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS. MR. STUYCK SAID THAT OF THE NINE, BELGIUM, FRANCE, AND ITALY HAD BEEN CALLED ON THE MAKE THE LARGEST SACRIFICES AND THAT ALL WERE RELUCTANT TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS THAN THOSE ALREADY OFFERED.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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